

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 09130 182216Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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R 171904Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECDEF WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2870
USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS ROME 9130

FOR SECRETARY BROWN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: REQUESTED PRESS INTERVIEW WITH DEFENSE SECRETARY HAROLD BROWN

1. I WOULD LIKE TO RECOMMEND THAT YOU GRANT AN INTERVIEW TO AN IMPORTANT ROME-BASED JOURNALIST DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON, JUNE 4-18. THE JOURNALIST IS LEO WOLLEMBORG, REGULAR POLITICAL COLUMNIST FOR THE CONSERVATIVE ROME DAILY, IL TEMPO. WOLLEMBORG IS A VALUED, LONG-TIME EMBASSY CONTACT. HE IS AN ASTUTE ANALYST OF ITALIAN POLITICAL TRENDS AS WELL AS AN ARTICULATE SUPPORTER OF CURRENT AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. THE PROPOSED INTERVIEW, IN WHICH YOUR VIEWS WILL CERTAINLY RECEIVE A SYMPATHETIC HEARING, OFFERS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE US DEFENSE POLICY POSITIONS BETTER KNOWN TO A WIDE ITALIAN AUDIENCE. WOLLEMBORG WILL WISH TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF THE NATO SUMMIT AND OTHER NATO/EAST-WEST ISSUES INCLUDING YOUR APPRAISAL OF CURRENT PROBLEMS ON NATO'S SOUTHER FLANK. I URGE YOU TO GRANT HIM AN ON-THE-RECORD INTERVIEW. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, A BACKGROUNDER WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL.

2. WOLLEMBORG IS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN WHO WAS BORN IN ITALY BUT WHO EMIGRATED TO THE UNITED STATES JUST BEFORE WORLD WAR II. HE RETURNED TO ROME IN THE
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PAGE 02 ROME 09130 182216Z

EARLY-50'S, FIRST AS WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT, AND LATER AS CORRESPONDENT FOR THE PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN. HE HAS LONG HAD A REGULAR COLUMN IN IL TEMPO, THROUGH WHICH HE HAS ESTABLISHED A REPUTATION AS ONE OF ITALY'S BEST KNOWN AND MOST RESPECTED MODERATE/CONSERVATIVE COMMENTATORS.

3. I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD LET ME KNOW HOW THINGS
STAND PRIOR TO WOLLEMBORG'S DEPARTURE FOR THE US, ON MAY 23.
GARDNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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